**1. Motivate**

What did a schoolyard altercation look like when you were a child?

* pushing & shoving
* name calling

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/27nrz6su> If you don’t have wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/yjksdjpz>

* wild swings, rolling on the ground
* calling names
* crowd gathers
* sides for each yelling
* teacher comes and breaks it up

**2. Transition**

We have both people and situations that can cause us troubles

* But … God is more powerful than whatever or whoever opposes us.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 God Knows What Is Going On

Listen for secrets revealed.

2 Kings 6:8-12 (NIV) Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place." 9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." 10 So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. 11 This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Will you not tell me which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" 12 "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."

What frustrates the king of Syria?

* when he makes military plans somehow the Israelites know about it
* they are there to foil his plans
* happens repeatedly
* he thinks there is an information leak within his officers
* one of the officers declares it is Elisha who is telling the plans to the King of Israel
* says that he probably knows what is said in his bedroom

In verses 8–12, how is Elisha able to warn Israel about the enemy’s plans?

* doesn’t specifically say how
* we infer that the Spirit of God tells Elisha where the attack is coming
* could be in a dream or vision
* could be a voice, could even be appearance of a messenger angel

What does this reveal about God's involvement in protecting His people?

* God does take action to protect His people
* He uses a variety of methods to protect us
* He might delay us so we don’t get in a bind
* He might warn us supernaturally or by just planting a thought in our mind
* When we trust Him, He takes care of us

When has God used others to protect you from danger, spiritual or otherwise?

* people praying for you
* a warning given
* direction or advice offered
* financial support provided

How have you benefitted from God’s infinite knowledge?

* a verse that jumps out at us when we read it
* sequence of events that show us what to do or not do
* someone gave a word of encouragement or suggested a specific thing to do or avoid
* daily reading and study of God’s Word gives knowledge and wisdom

3.2 God Opens Our Eyes

Listen for both blindness and eyesight.

2 Kings 6:15-17 (NIV) When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. 16 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

What did Elisha’s servant see and what feeling did it generate within him?

* an army had surrounded the city
* horses
* chariots
* infantry
* “Oh my … what shall we do?”

What affirmation did Elisha offer to his young servant?

* don’t be afraid
* those who are with US are more than those who are with them
* then he asked God to open the servants eyes to see God’s army

When have you sensed God’s unseen protection?

* during a near accident, a “close shave”
* approaching a major surgery
* facing a very important responsibility (speech, presentation, completion of a project)
* when confronted by danger – physical or spiritual

All the servant can see the enemy army? Why is human perception of spiritual realities often limited?

* our human senses are limited
* we may focus on the problem and not God’s presence and power
* we should always be looking for God’s intervention in our problems
* we are distracted by other issues
* when you are really sick and feeling quite unwell, it limits your thinking and understanding

What are some ways God opens our eyes and allows us to see what He is doing?

* once in a while we hear a news report or some information that informs us of answers to long standing prayers
* someone shares how God protected them … and you were praying for them at that time
* we escape a danger and what happens and how it happens tells us that it HAD to be God at work
* a verse we “happen” to be reading all of a sudden matches up with the issue we are struggling with

How does Elisha's prayer in verse 17 shift the servant's perspective? What does this teach us about spiritual awareness?

* our own awareness is limited by human limitations
* there are things going on in the spiritual realm that we often don’t realize
* but they ARE happening
* evil powers are at work but God’s powers are also at work … and God’s power is greater

How might the servant’s eyes being opened to God's protection apply to situations we face today?

* things we worry about, problems we are facing
* opposition from unbelieving family or co-workers
* habits one is trying to do away with
* abuse or harassment from a relative, neighbor, co-worker, boss

3.3 Be Gracious to Your Enemies

Listen for mercy given.

2 Kings 6:18-23 (NIV) As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Strike these people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked. 19 Elisha told them, "This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to Samaria. 20 After they entered the city, Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men so they can see." Then the LORD opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria. 21 When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, "Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?" 22 "Do not kill them," he answered. "Would you kill men you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master." 23 So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory.

What did Elisha pray for the Lord to do when confronted with the Syrians?

* strike the people with blindness
* opposite of what the servant was experiencing

What tactic did Elisha use to deal with his foes?

* this is not the road you seek (sounds like Obi Wan Kenobi)
* follow me
* I’ll lead you to the person you’re looking for
* Once in Samaria, prayed for their eyes to be opened

What are practical ways we can show kindness to those who oppose us?

* don’t go for revenge
* pray for them
* help them with their own problems
* be a blessing to them

Elisha responds to the enemy with mercy and hospitality (vv. 21–23). How does this reflect God’s heart, even toward those who oppose us?

* remember that mercy is when you don’t do to someone what they really deserve
* natural tendency is revenge
* tougher to be nice to someone who is opposing you
* you need God’s strength to act with kindness

How can we develop the kind of faith Elisha demonstrates—calm, confident, and merciful—even under threat?

* you must trust the fact that God is in charge
* have assurance/faith that God will accomplish His purpose for you, no matter what outside influences oppose you
* requires a close walk with God
* means you are in daily communication with God
* read, meditate on God’s Word
* talk to God --- Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplications A.C.T.S.

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Request.

* Pray and ask God to give you insight to the opposition you are facing.
* Nothing is beyond His knowledge.
* Seek His viewpoint and understanding.

Recognize.

* Study what God’s Word says about God’s protection.
* Commit a passage to memory.
* Recognize God’s constant presence with you.

Reconcile.

* Speak words of forgiveness and compassion to those who oppose you.
* Be merciful to them by setting aside the desire to blame.
* Make reconciliation the goal.

Double Puzzle

Key words taken from 2 Kings 6:8-12, 15-23 (NIV)



We found this quote and made a double puzzle. First unscramble the key words on the right. They are from your Bible study passage. Then use the numbers to find the letters for the important quote. Find help at <https://tinyurl.com/yjksdjpz> along with more Fun Family Activities.

